

U.S. National Political Update - Feb. 10, 2022

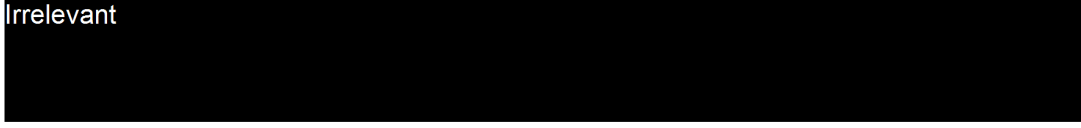
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NB: BCC List appended below.
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1. Growing concern from border members over trucker blockade

Irrelevant



The House and Senate are in session. The House leaves Friday for two weeks away from Washington with no votes scheduled for the rest of February. The Senate will be out the last week of February for the Presidents' Day recess.

1. Growing concern from border members over trucker blockade

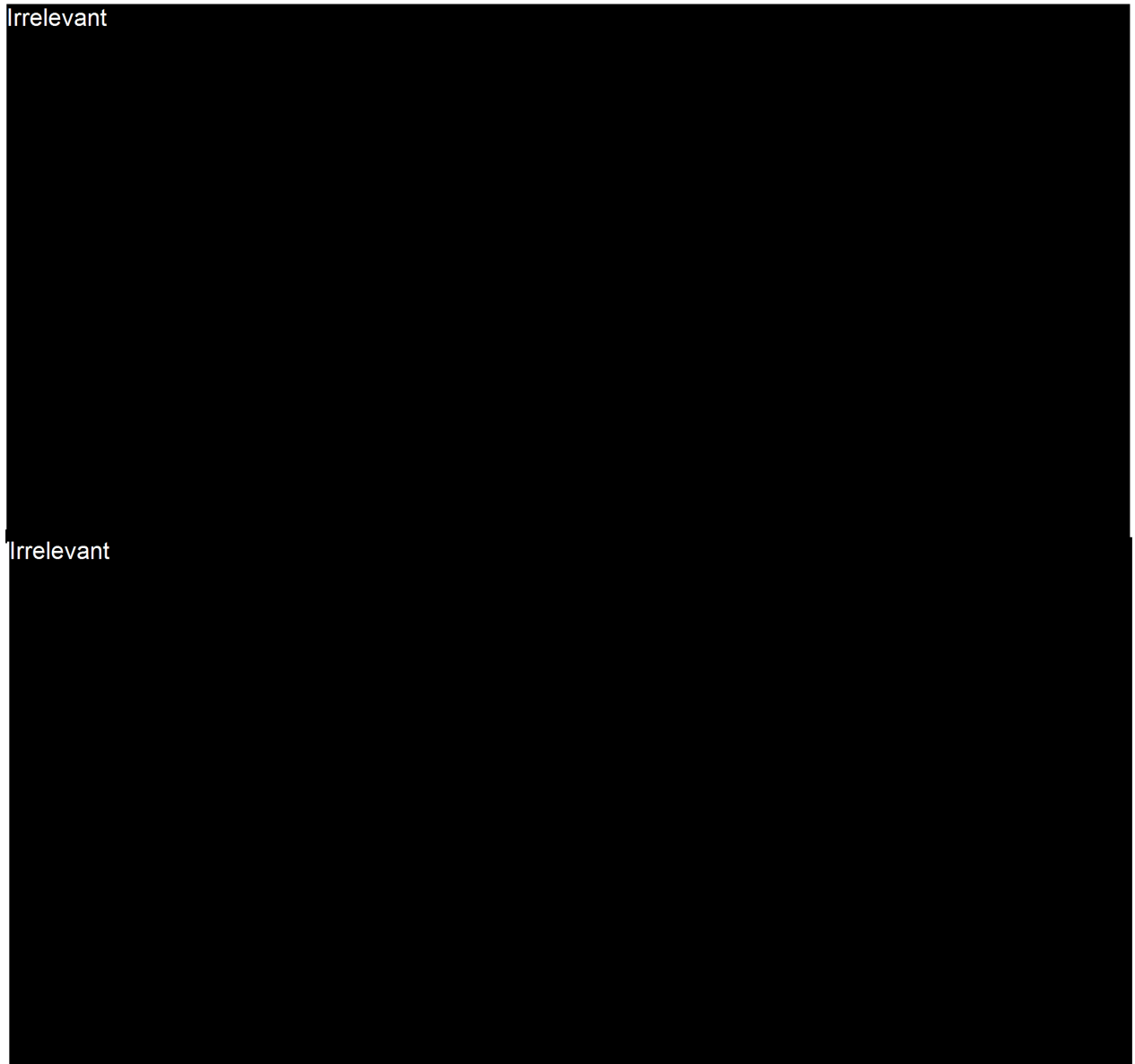
Members of Congress and state leaders are beginning to express concern over the ongoing trucker protest and blockade of Canadian bridges to the United States.

- **Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer** issued a statement today, saying, "it is imperative that Canadian local, provincial, and national governments de-escalate this economic blockade. They must take all necessary and appropriate steps to immediately and safely reopen traffic so we can continue growing our economy, supporting good-paying jobs, and lowering costs for families."
- **Rep. Elissa Slotkin (D-MI)** tweeted "If we needed another example of why supply chains matter, look no further: the blockade of the Ambassador Bridge, the busiest border crossing in America, is already creating major disruptions for our businesses in Michigan." She also added: "The one thing that couldn't be more clear is that we have to bring American manufacturing back home to states like Michigan."
- **Rep. Rep. Andy Levin (D-MI)** said the situation presents a "very, very serious" potential impediment to what's already a delicate supply chain.
- **Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI)** said the onus is on Canada to determine a solution to the strain because the protests are challenging a Canadian policy.
- **Sen. Gary Peters (D-MI)** said his office is looking into ways to alleviate the congestion, including working with the Canadian government.

Later today, WSHDC will speak with **Rep. Dan Kildee (D-MI)**, at the Congressman's request. His district contains auto parts manufacturers which are being negatively impacted by the blockades. Kildee plans on issuing a statement ahead of the meeting calling for the border to reopen and noting that he is "in touch with the Canadian government to ensure that our border crossing is fully reopened as soon as possible". WSHDC has also been in close contact with **Rep. Brian Higgins' (D-NY)** office over concerns of potential blockades at the Peace Bridge (connecting Buffalo to Fort Erie). WSHDC expects other members and state officials from border districts to reach out to the Embassy as the situation evolves.

Over the past week, a number of Republican members of Congress have tweeted in support of the trucker protest. Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX) tweeted Sunday "The Canadian Truckers are heroes" and "God bless these Canadian truck drivers. They're defending Canada, America, and they're standing up for freedom! The government doesn't have the right to force you to comply to their arbitrary mandates." Former White House physician and current House member Rep. Ronny Jackson (R-TX) tweeted "Justin Trudeau is the Beto O'Rourke of Canada - a socialist hippy with no spine. He's a shameless "leader" who demonizes truckers and praises the domestic terrorist BLM rioters. Freedom loving Americans PROUDLY stand with Canada's Patriotic Truck Drivers!" Border Sen. Steve Daines (R-MT) tweeted: "Trudeau brushing off the truckers standing up for freedom by calling them a "fringe minority" that only reflects "conspiracy theorists" & "tin foil hats" is shameful. Montanans and our neighbors to the north are sick & tired of overreaching mandates!" Cruz and others, including Sen. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) and Rep. Billy Long (R-LA) have also demanded an investigation into GoFundMe for terminating the fundraising campaign launched in aid of the protesters.

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